

S E C R E T SANAA 002365

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: DFM ADMITS ROYG VIOLATED SOMALI ARMS EMBARGO

REF: SANAA 2123

Classified By: Ambassador Thomas C. Krajeski for reasons 1.4 b and d.

¶11. (S/NF) Summary: On August 10, DFM Noman briefed Ambassador on a UNSC investigation into allegations of ROYG infractions against the Somali arms embargo. MOI Alimi followed up on August 14, underlining ROYG concerns that Somalia will be over-run by Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups unless Yusuf's attempt to establish a government succeeds. End Summary

ROYG ARMS SHIPMENT TO SOMALIA

¶12. (S) During a meeting urgently requested by MFA, Deputy Foreign Minister Noman informed Ambassador that two UN officials were currently in Yemen to investigate reports that the ROYG shipped arms to Somalia in contravention of the UN arms embargo. In an effort to maintain "transparency," Noman admitted that the ROYG shipped 5,000 Kalashnikovs to Transitional Federal Government (TFG) President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed following a personal request from Yusuf to President Saleh during the June OIC conference in Sanaa.

¶13. (S) In addition to arms, ROYG sent \$250,000 in cash, ammunition, uniforms and a three month supply of food for 5,000 troops. A military plane delivered the shipment to an unknown location outside of Mogadishu. Yusuf requested additional support, but due to financial limitations the ROYG could provide nothing else.

¶14. (S) Noman expects the report will be submitted for translation shortly, before being presented to the Security Council at the end of September. The ROYG believes, he continued, that the official shipment of arms to Yusuf was not an infraction, as the arms are in support of the recognized Somali president in his attempt to "reinstate the authority of the government of Somalia." Noman hoped the disclosure of the shipment would be seen as a "sign of transparency" and requested USG assistance to mitigate the negative effects of the report's release. The report should be seen, he added, as an attempt to support the legal government of Somalia and not as an attempt to fuel arms trafficking and destabilize the region.

¶15. (S) Comment: Any arms shipment from Yemen to Somalia is a clear violation of the embargo and will undoubtedly be included in the final report. Willingness to disclose the arms shipment before the report is submitted is an indication the ROYG's concern with negative fall-out, particularly in light of Saleh's upcoming visit to the U.S. in November. The ROYG has expressed to us repeatedly Yemeni concern that the failure of Yusuf to establish himself in Mogadishu would be disastrous not only to Somalia but also to Yemen and the region. Ambassador told both DFM Noman and MOI Alimi that arms shipment to any faction in Somalia was a clear violation of the UN arms embargo. ROYG could expect to be sanctioned by UNSC committee in September, and should not expect any sympathy or support from Washington. Post will continue to press the ROYG to end destabilizing arms shipments and maintain a constructive role in the peace process. End Comment.

Krajeski